THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

Public Information Department, 11150 East Blvd., Cleveland, Ohio 44106; 216/421-7340

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PRESS RELEASE

THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART PRESENTS FOUR CLEVELAND ARTISTS: GEORGE G. ADOMEIT, OTTO H. BACHER, FREDERICK C. GOTTWALD, AND WALTER A. SINZ

One of the several exhibitions organized as part of the fifth annual Cleveland Art Festival is The Cleveland Museum of Art Presents Four Cleveland Artists: George G. Adomeit, Otto H. Bacher, Frederick C. Gottwald, and Walter A. Sinz. Seldom seen works from the Museum's holdings and from area collections make up this exhibition, which features the art of two generations of early Cleveland masters. The exhibition opens Friday, October 12, 4:00 to 7:00 pm, in the street level gallery of One Cleveland Center, 1375 East 9th Street. It will be on view weekdays starting Monday, October 15, from 10:00 to 6:00 pm, through Friday, November 2. It is presented with the support of Central National Bank.

Organized by Tom E. Hinson, the Museum's curator of contemporary art, the exhibition includes forty-eight works of art in a range of media: etchings, charcoal drawings, sculpture, and oil paintings. As in previous Art Festival exhibitions he has curated, Mr. Hinson has chosen to focus on the splendor of Cleveland's artistic past and, in this particular exhibition, on artists active in early Cleveland arts organizations.

The two older artists, Frederick Gottwald (1860-1941) and Otto Bacher (1856-1909), were close friends and founding members of the Cleveland Art Club. George Adomeit (1879-1967), who studied under Frederick Gottwald, was a founder of the Cleveland Society of Artists. Walter Sinz (1881-1966) was a Life Member of the Society and a graduate and faculty member of the Institute of Art.

The teacher and painter Frederick Gottwald, who is represented in this exhibition by five oil paintings, loved Italy and spent many summers painting there. His atmospheric Italian subjects, among them The Umbrian Valley, Italy, are bathed in bright

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light and vivid colors. Gottwald began his forty-one-year teaching career in 1885 at the Cleveland Institute of Art, three years after it was founded as the Western Reserve School of Design for Women. An inspirational teacher, he worked unceasingly to develop art appreciation in the Cleveland area.

The important etcher, painter, and illustrator Otto Bacher spent only the earliest part of his career in Cleveland; the show includes seven etchings he made of Cleveland scenes in 1878, when he was twenty-two and already committed to a life as an artist. While still in his early twenties, Bacher left to study art in Europe, one of the first Cleveland artists to do so, and thence began a lifelong friendship with James McNeill Whistler. In the 1890s Bacher's finest paintings were influenced by the impressionist works he saw in Europe: Nude Outdoors and Portrait of Mrs. Otto H. Bacher, both from the Museum's collection, are excellent examples of his mastery of this style and his interest in the effects of light and color.

George Adomeit was a prominent Cleveland painter and businessman. In 1902, at the age of twenty-three, he co-founded the Caxton Company, a printing and engraving business that by the 1920s became one of the outstanding printing concerns in the country. While managing this demanding business, Adomeit pursued his avocation and compiled an impressive exhibition record. He exhibited in numerous major national museums and in forty consecutive May Shows. Adomeit is represented in this show by a number of sensitive drawings and oil sketches of the figure and by paintings of some of his favorite Cleveland and New England locales.

During the first part of his artistic career, Walter Sinz worked as an architectural wood and stone carver. Sinz designed sculptural ornaments for many buildings in town such as those in the West Side Market, the Statler Hotel, and St. Ann's Church, but many were lost as buildings were razed for new construction. A faculty member for forty-one years of the Institute of Art, Sinz

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exhibited widely, notably in forty-eight consecutive May Shows, beginning with the first exhibition in 1919. His work is represented in this exhibition by eight small sculptures in plaster and the humorous ceramic sculpture Beautiful Isle of Somewhere.

John Moore, assistant curator in the Museum's Department of Art History and Education, will talk about the exhibition in the One Cleveland Center gallery at noon each Thursday of the Festival, October 18 and 25, and November 1. The Museum also will participate in University Circle Day, Sunday, October 14, when it will, as is customary, be open from 1:00 to 6:00 pm; the special exhibition of Japanese screens from the Museum collection has been extended until October 14. The Cleveland Art Festival is a project of NOVA.

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For additional information or photographs, please contact the Public Information Office, The Cleveland Museum of Art, 11150 East Boulevard, Cleveland, Ohio 44106; 216/421-7340.